



MPs overwhelmingly reject 'disappointing' new Cabinet

Lawmakers urge PM to correct the situation, call for reforms

Sheikh Mishal: A trustworthy leader

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah two years ago designated HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to be the heir apparent, his right hand for managing state affairs and leading the march towards further development and prosperity. On the second anniversary of proclaiming Sheikh Mishal as Crown Prince, the light is focused on his crucial roles as HH the Amir's right hand, trusted adviser and deputy at times where the need arises, bearing the grand national responsibility and proving to be a trustworthy leader.

His Highness the Crown Prince, since his proclamation, has been guiding the judicial, legislative and executive authorities to perform national tasks, maintaining jurisdictions' separation and respecting laws for safeguarding the homeland's stability and its people's prosperity. Sheikh Mishal, born in Kuwait in 1940, is the seventh son of the late 10th Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who ruled the country between 1921 and 1950. — KUNA (See Page 3)



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MPs overwhelmingly rejected the new Cabinet line-up on Thursday and demanded a correction. Opposition MP Ammar Al-Ajmi, who was appointed in the Cabinet, declined the post immediately after the new government was named late on Wednesday, saying it included ministers who do not respect the constitution. That immediately triggered a crisis, because Ajmi was the only elected MP in the Cabinet, and under Kuwaiti law, the Cabinet must include at least one elected MP.

A ceremony scheduled on Thursday for the new Cabinet to be sworn in by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah did not take place, without any official comment. It was not immediately known if HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah will look for another lawmaker to replace Ajmi or make wider changes as demanded by over 40 of the 50 elected MPs, many of them from the opposition.

The main objections of the MPs centered around some of the six old ministers retained in the Cabinet, accused by MPs of "not respecting the constitution" because they voted for a controversial law in the previous Assembly that protected the

prime minister against public questioning. Leading veteran opposition MP Ahmad Al-Saadoun, tipped to be Assembly speaker, said "the selection of the ministers is not in line with the election's outcome."

MP Saifi Al-Saifi said the Cabinet line-up does not reflect the ambitions of the Kuwaiti people and the results of the elections. "The prime minister did not learn from the experiences of the previous governments, and this will take us back to square one," said Saifi, who urged the premier to correct the situation before the Assembly's opening session on Tuesday.

MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said the prime minister should select ministers not suspected of links to corruption, and the selection of ministers should respect the will of the people. MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari called on the prime minister to expand his consultations and meetings before announcing the government. New MP Hamad Al-Obaid said the prime minister should accept the resignation of the ministers and then form a new Cabinet in a bid to avoid confrontations between the Assembly and the government. MP Adel Al-Damkhi called on the prime minister to select statesmen for the Cabinet who believe in carrying out reforms and are capable of countering corruption.

For Saudi fan, road to World Cup is a desert trek



Saudi trekker Abdullah Alsulmi crosses a desert area near Al-Khasrah on Sept 27, 2022 during his solo trek to the Qatari capital ahead of the FIFA World Cup. — AFP

AL-KHASRAH, Saudi Arabia: The idea hit Abdullah Alsulmi earlier this year, while he was watching a television show in which a senior Qatari official promised an "exceptional" experience at the upcoming World Cup. His excitement building, the 33-year-old Saudi recalls thinking: "I will go to Doha no matter what, even if I have to walk!"

It was an unlikely beginning to what has become an audacious adventure dismissed by some of Alsulmi's own relatives as "crazy": A two-month, 1,600-km solo trek from his native Jeddah to the Qatari capital. Alsulmi says the journey, faithfully documented for his thousands of Snapchat followers, is meant to highlight regional enthusiasm for the first World Cup in the Middle East - which Saudi officials have pitched as a milestone "for all Arabs".

"We want to support the World Cup," Alsulmi told AFP one day last week as he sheltered from the midday sun near roadside shrubs in the town of Al-Khasrah, 340 km southwest of Riyadh. Wearing a wide-brim hat and a backpack to which he'd affixed Saudi and Qatari flags, he said: "I consider myself like a Qatari who is very interested in this World Cup and its success." — AFP (See Page 11)

Gunman kills at least 37 in Thai nursery attack

UDON THANI, Thailand: A former Thai police officer armed with a gun and a knife killed at least 37 people in northeast Thailand on Thursday, most of them children at a nursery, in one of the kingdom's deadliest mass killings. Following the attack, gunman Panya Khamrab went home and killed his wife and child before taking his own life, police said. Armed with a shotgun, pistol and knife, Panya opened fire on the childcare center in northeastern Nong Bua Lam Phu province, at about 12:30 pm (0530 GMT).

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh

Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable of condolences to Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn over the killings. HH the Amir expressed his deepest sorrow and condolences to the victims' families and hoped for a swift recovery of the injured in this horrendous attack. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Thai monarch.

National Police Chief Damrongsak Kittipratat told a news conference the gunman had killed 37 people, including 23 children and his own family, and wounded 12 others. Nanthicha Panchum, acting chief of the nursery, described harrowing scenes as the attacker barged into the

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NONG BUA LAMPHU, Thailand: National Police Chief Damrongsak Kittipratat speaks with a police operation team in this northern Thai province following an attack on a nursery on Oct 6, 2022. — AFP

French author Annie Ernaux wins Literature Nobel

STOCKHOLM: French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender, was on Thursday awarded the Nobel Literature Prize. Ernaux, 82, was honored "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory", the jury said.

The feminist icon told reporters in Paris the award created a responsibility to "continue the fight against injustice". She said literature could not have an "immediate impact", but she nonetheless felt the need to maintain the struggle for the rights of "women and the oppressed". Her more than 20 books, many of which have been school

texts in France for decades, offer one of the most subtle, insightful windows into the social life of modern France.

Ernaux is the second woman among the eight Nobel laureates honored so far this year, with women vastly under-represented in the history of the prizes. French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the award, calling Ernaux's voice "that of the freedom of women and of the forgotten". Personal experiences are the source for all Ernaux's work and she is the pioneer of France's "autofiction" genre, which gives narrative form to real-life experience.

Above all, her crystalline prose has excavated her own passage from working-class girl to the literary elite, casting a critical eye on social structures and her own complicated emotions. "Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class," the Swedish Academy noted.

"Her work is uncompromising and written in plain language, scraped clean," it said. "And when she with great courage and clinical acuity reveals



PARIS: French author Annie Ernaux reacts during a press conference after she won the 2022 Nobel Literature Prize at the Gallimard headquarters on Oct 6, 2022. — AFP

the agony of the experience of class, describing shame, humiliation, jealousy or inability to see who you are, she has achieved something admirable and enduring."

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